



Narrative Skills

Being able to tell or retell a story helps children understand what they read.

To help develop narrative skills:

- Listen to your child carefully when he or she talks or tells stories.
- Tell stories to your child - family stories, stories about when your child was born or adopted, and stories about other relatives are fun starters.
- Share books together and talk about the pictures.
- Read wordless stories together and let your child tell the story.
- Tell childhood classics together. *The Three Little Pigs* and *The Three Billy Goats Gruff* are fun for the whole family to participate in or act out.
- Add to what your child says. If your child says, "big truck" then you say, "Yes, a big red fire truck."
- Tell stories with puppets or dolls. Encourage your child to pretend and write down some of the stories she tells you.
- Help your child relate what is happening in the story to her own experience, for example, "What happened when we went swimming?"
- Ask open-ended questions like, "What do you think is happening in this picture?" and "What was your favorite part of the story?"

Studies of early readers show they come from homes where oral language is used in a variety of ways.